

# Northern Idaho

## Grazing Management Final

### Environmental Impact Statement

BLM LIBRARY



88013436





**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

Library  
Denver Service Center



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Route 3, Box 181  
Cottonwood, Idaho 83522

IN REPLY REFER TO  
FGEIS 1792

Dear Reader:

Enclosed is the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for Northern Idaho Grazing Management. The Coeur d'Alene District Office of the Bureau of Land Management prepared the statement pursuant to Section 102 (2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

This final statement differs from the usual procedure of reprinting the entire revised draft statement. This statement includes only those changes that are necessary in the draft EIS and the responses to public comments received on the draft EIS. As such, this FEIS must be used in conjunction with the earlier draft statement which was distributed to the public in June, 1981. This revised procedure has saved substantial time and money. A limited number of the draft EIS books are available from the Coeur d'Alene District Office and the Cottonwood Resource Area Office.

This EIS is part of the decision process but is not a decision document. The decision on the action to be taken will be based on the analysis contained in the EIS, BLM's workforce and budget constraints, public concerns, and other multiple-use resource objectives or programs for the area. No action can be taken for at least 30 days following filing of the final statement with the Environmental Protection Agency and distribution to the public. A summary document which outlines the management direction for the lands discussed in this EIS will be prepared and made available as soon as decisions are made.

We appreciate the time and effort spent by those who commented on the draft EIS.

Thank you for your interest and participation.

Sincerely yours,

*Myra J. Jense*  
District Manager





NORTHERN IDAHO GRAZING MANAGEMENT  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

( ) Draft

(X) Final Environmental Impact Statement

1. Type of Action: (X) Administrative ( ) Legislative

2. Responsible Agencies:

a. Lead Agency: Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management

b. Cooperating Agencies: None

3. Abstract: The Northern Idaho Grazing Management Environmental Impact Statement analyzes the effects of a 20-year grazing management program on public lands in northern Idaho. Four grazing management alternatives including the proposed action, which is the Bureau's preferred alternative, are presented for consideration and are analyzed in terms of their projected environmental (including economic) effects. The proposal and alternatives present different levels of vegetative allocations to wildlife, livestock, and other uses. Also analyzed are alternative intensities of grazing management as well as necessary support facilities (i.e., water development, fencing, and land treatments).

4. Comments Have Been Requested and Received from the Following:

See Consultation and Coordination section for a list of agencies, organizations, and individuals who commented on the draft EIS. Pages 5-4 through 5-6 of the draft EIS contain a list of those who were sent the draft EIS and asked to comment.

5. Date Draft Statement Made Available to EPA and the Public:

June 4, 1981



1588013436

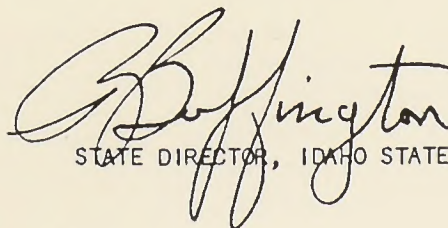
BLM Library  
D-553A, Building 50  
Denver Federal Center  
P. O. Box 25047  
Denver, CO 80225-0047

SF  
85.35  
.I2  
N67  
1981b

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NORTHERN IDAHO GRAZING MANAGEMENT  
FINAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Prepared by  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
COEUR D'ALENE DISTRICT OFFICE  
COTTONWOOD RESOURCE AREA HEADQUARTERS

  
STATE DIRECTOR, IDAHO STATE OFFICE

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Library  
Denver Service Center





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION DURING PREPARATION OF THE FINAL EIS. . . . .	1
LETTERS OF COMMENT AND RESPONSE. . . . .	3
TEXT AND GRAPHIC CHANGES . . . . .	16





CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION  
IN PREPARATION OF THE FINAL EIS

During the preparation of the draft EIS the Coeur d'Alene District issued news releases, sent out information packets, and made personal contacts to describe the EIS and to request the contribution of interested individuals and groups. Prior to this, the district conducted numerous public meetings with individuals and agencies to gather information, opinions, and suggestions on preparation of land use plans upon which the EIS is based.

The draft EIS was filed with the Environmental Protection Agency on June 4, 1981, and approximately 450 copies were distributed for public review. During or following the public review period, which ended on July 27, 1981, 9 letters of comments were received from agencies, groups, or individuals. Copies of letters received and BLM's responses to them are included in the Letters of Comment and Responses section of this final EIS.

Copies of the draft EIS were mailed to those organizations and individuals noted below in addition to those listed on pages 5-4 through 5-6 of the draft EIS. Copies of the final EIS will be mailed to all agencies, organizations, and individuals who received copies of the draft EIS.

Additional Copies of the draft EIS were mailed to:

Peter Wagstaff  
Jack Kiley  
Harry E. Wilson  
Ted Nelson  
Energy Impact Associates  
Bob Witkowski  
Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc.

Written comments on the draft EIS were received from the following:

Letter Number	Commentor
1	Potlatch Corporation
2	Duke K. Parkening
3	Soil Conservation Service, USDA
4	Bonneville Power Administration, Department of Energy
5	Idaho State Clearinghouse
6	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
7	Society of American Foresters, Wasatch Front Chapter
8	Department of Fish and Game, State of Idaho
9	Department of Lands, State of Idaho





# LETTERS OF COMMENT AND RESPONSES





RESPONSE TO LETTER 1

Potlatch Corporation  
Wood Products, Western Division

P.O. Box 1016  
Lewiston, Idaho 83501  
Telephone (208) 799-0123

June 24, 1981

Bureau of Land Management  
Cottonwood Resource Area Headquarters  
Route 3, Box 81  
Cottonwood, ID 83522

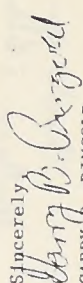
Dear Sir:

I have read your North Idaho Grazing Management Environmental Impact Statement and found it very interesting. As a forester for Potlatch Corporation, my area of responsibility covers grazing allotment #6279, Eagle Creek and China Creek in the Craig Mountain area where Potlatch land is involved, along with other owners in the allotment area. I am interested in a cooperative program of grazing management within this area and would welcome some help. We should try to develop an integrated management plan for this area. Our concern is, of course, to preserve and protect our forested lands so we may produce a continuous crop of trees.

I noticed some problems with this report which I'd like to call to your attention:

- 1.1 Pages 2-11 appear to contain a typo in the second sentence where "60 acres" should, I believe, read "60 percent".
- 1.2 In the Appendix on page A-41, it is predicted that an increase in forage production "will result from the seeding of forage species on new timber harvest areas". Does this mean you intend to convert timberland to grazing land to reduce timberland acreage by 58 acres per year for 90 years?
- 1.3 The vegetation map found on the back cover shows a large area (about one full township in size) located east and a bit south of Headquarters listed as grassland. I have a reasonably good knowledge of that area, and I assure you it is not grassland. Potlatch Corporation probably owns 80% of that area, and although we do run cattle in the area, it is definitely forest land.

Please send me a copy of the final report.

Sincerely,  
  
GARRY B. RINGOLD  
Special Projects Forester

GBR/lp

1.1 Sixty acres is the correct figure. For clarity, the word "annually" was added. See Text and Graphics Changes section, page 16.

1.2 It is not our intent to convert timberland to grazing land. Wording has been added clarifying the temporary nature of any increase in forage production. See Text and Graphics Changes section, page 16.

1.3 See Text and Graphics Changes section, page 16.

DUKE K. PARKENING  
WILD RIVER RANCH, STAR ROUTE  
KOOSKIA, IDAHO 83539

2

July 5, 1981

Dear Mr. Todd -

Thank you for mailing me the excellent Northern Idaho Management E.S.R.

My family and I prefer "Alternative 3" as our interests concern wildlife.

We presently own and manage a 1300 acre ranch solely for wildlife.

We also believe from past and many years of real estate experience that when land value changed over 30 value changes.

Under Alternative 3 you have stated that the elimination of all livestock grazing from B.L.M. lands would not cause a significant decrease in livestock production over the E.S. area and that only 5 jobs and \$41,000 annually would be lost or eliminated from B.L.M. lands.

It seems a small forfeiture and consequence for wildlife. We maintain 10% of that amount individually ourselves for wildlife.

Perhaps, not shown, there should be far greater gains to our communities from tourist, hunter etc stimulating other parts of the area life style & economy.

I would like to refer you to an article I read today of George Rugeley "The Wages of Growth" in the July 1981 issue of Field & Stream magazine. (over)

The article has much to do with population & encompasses a piece or part of the business of survival, including land use, we all share responsibility of.

Sincerely Duke K. Parkening



2.1 Since public land acreages make up such a small percentage of the total land base in northern Idaho, any increase in hunting, fishing, or other recreation values when considered on a regional basis would be insignificant.



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Soil  
Conservation  
Service

Room 345  
304 North 8th Street  
Boise, Idaho 83702

July 14, 1981

Mr. Dick Todd  
Team Leader, Northern Idaho  
Grazing EIS  
Bureau of Land Management  
Route 3, Box 181  
Cottonwood, Idaho 83522

Dear Mr. Todd:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for proposed grazing management in northern Idaho.

We offer the following comments:

Page S 1 - Proposed Action Alternative (Bureau's Preferred Alternative),  
2nd Paragraph:

The Soil Conservation Service (SCS) is a strong believer in and supporter of cooperative and coordinated resource planning. It is our desire to provide technical assistance in development of coordinated resource plans, however, budget limitations and targeted priorities often dictate manpower and time constraints and how and where manpower and time be used. We believe it would be unwise to lead resource users (ranchers in this case) to assume we could provide necessary assistance to complete the eight coordinated resource plans as established in the time table. You can be assured, however, available assistance will be directed toward completing our portion of the coordinated resource plans as fast as possible. Further details will need to be worked out between the involved agencies and resource users. Both agencies need to meet together, review, discuss, and agree on priorities and time frame to complete coordinated resource plans.

### 3.1

Page A-19 - Range Condition, 2nd Paragraph, 2nd Sentence:

Several of the species listed would be considered as perennial native species and would most likely be included as components in the potential natural plant community, if identified as occurring on the site. The remaining species are introduced (exotic) perennial species and may be included as a minor component in the potential natural plant community if the determination was made that they indeed have established an ecological niche in the potential plant community.

The Soil Conservation Service  
is an agency of the  
Department of Agriculture



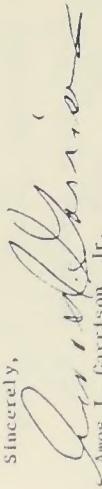
SCS AS-1  
10-79

Mr. Dick Todd  
7/14/81, Page 2

3.2 | SCS does not include these exotic plants in every potential plant community as may be inferred in this paragraph.

Most of the species listed would rate high in relative forage quality, however.

Sincerely,

  
Amos T. Garrison, Jr.  
State Conservationist

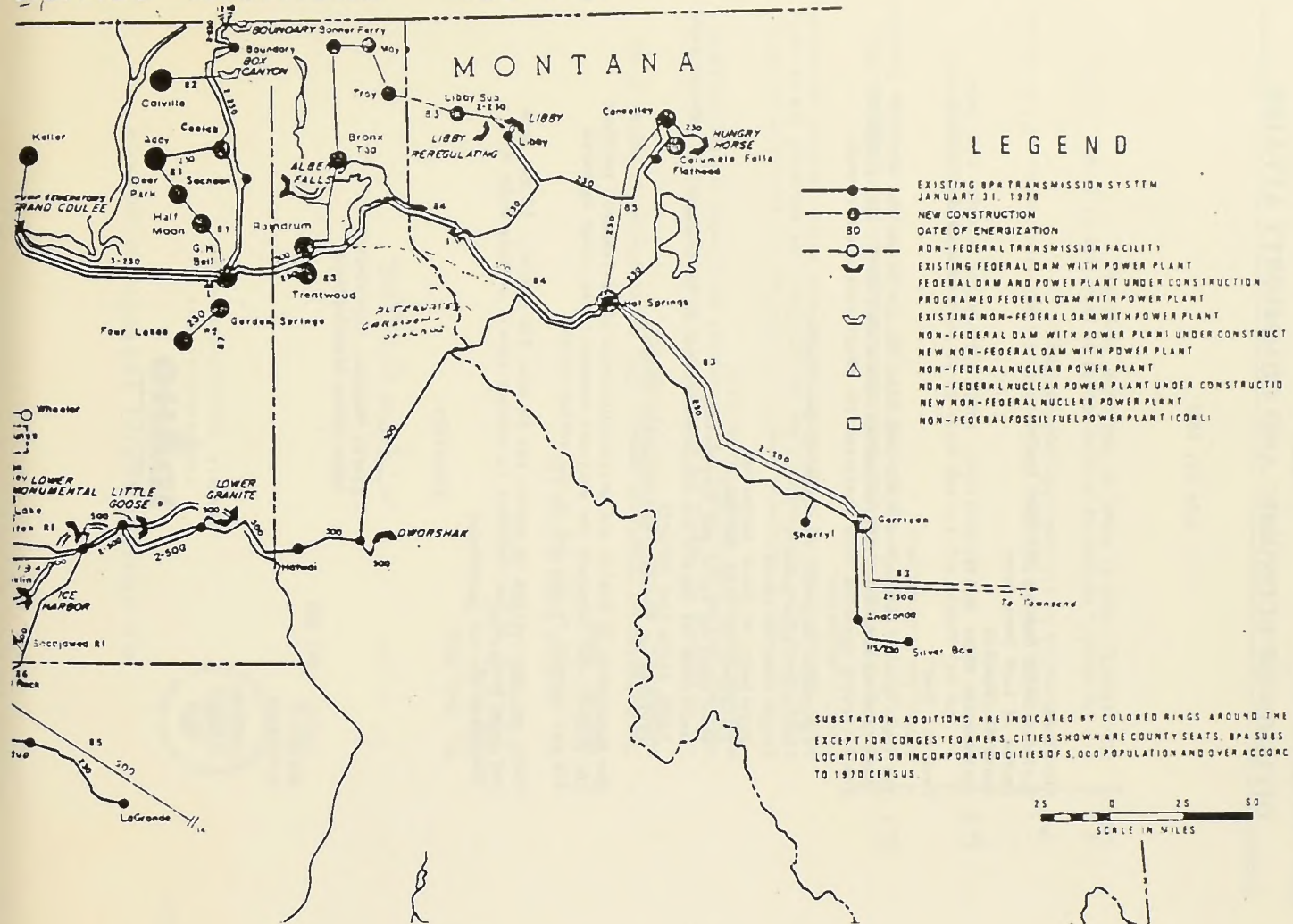
RESPONSE TO LETTER 3

3.1 We recognize that the proposed implementation schedule is dependent on available manpower and funding. See draft EIS page 4-3, assumption number 2.

3.2 We recognize that the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) does not include these exotic plants in every potential plant community.



# ILITIES ADDITIONS 1980-1989



July 16, 1981

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration  
P.O. Box 3621  
Portland, Oregon 97208

In reply refer to SJ

Mr. Dick Todd  
Northern Idaho Grazing EIS Team Leader  
U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau  
of Land Management  
Route 3, Box 181  
Cottonwood, ID 83522

Dear Mr. Todd:

We have reviewed the draft "Northern Idaho Grazing Management Environmental Impact Statement." Our comments follow.

BPA has numerous existing and planned facilities in the EIS study area (see attached map). Some of the larger transmission projects are Garrison-Spokane 500-kv line, Northwest Montana/Northern Idaho Support 230-kv line, and the Sandpoint-Twin Lakes 230-kv line. Additionally, long range corridors have been identified in the panhandle area.

We recommend that you address the issue of transmission facilities in your final statement. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely yours,

John E. Kiley  
Environmental Manager

Enclosure



4.1 Transmission facilities would not be affected by the proposed action or any of the alternatives. Consideration of the effect of existing or proposed transmission facilities on the proposed action or alternatives is outside the scope of this assessment.

John V. Evans, Governor  
Daniel T. Emborg, Administrator



State Capitol Building  
Boise, Idaho 83720

## DIVISION OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

July 21, 1981

Dick Todd  
Northern Idaho Grazing EIS Team Leader  
Bureau of Land Management  
Route #3 Box 181  
Cottonwood, Idaho 83522

Re: GEIS-1792(580)

Dear Mr. Todd:

The Idaho State Clearinghouse has completed its review on the NORTHERN IDAHO GRAZING MANAGEMENT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT - SAI #00615925. The following agencies were contacted for their review and comment:

Clearwater Economic Development Association  
Panhandle Area Council  
Department of Lands  
Department of Water Resources  
Department of Fish and Game  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
Department of Health and Welfare/Division of Environment  
Idaho Historical Society  
Division of Economic and Community Affairs

The Department of Health and Welfare/Division of Environment reviewed the project and returned the enclosed comment. The other agencies did not comment by the end of the review period.

Thank you for letting us assist you in your EIS review. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact myself or Lois Wade at 208-334-4718.

Sincerely,

*Gloria Mabbutt*  
Gloria Mabbutt, Coordinator  
Idaho State Clearinghouse

GM/lw  
enclosure

**IDAHO**  
A Land For All Seasons



# STATE OF IDAHO

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENT - 1118 F. Street - P O Drawer B - Lewiston, Idaho 83501

### M E M O R A N D U M

#### TO:

State Clearinghouse  
Division of Budget, Policy Planning & Coordination  
Statehouse  
Boise, Idaho 83720

SUBJECT: SAI # 00615925

PROJECT TITLE: North Idaho Grazing EIS

FEDERAL AGENCY: BLM

A-95 LOG FOR DATE OF: June 8, 1981

Thank you for the opportunity to review the above referenced project under the A-95 process. We offer the following:

(X) No Comment ( ) Approve Project

( ) Comments Below ( ) Disapprove Project

Comments:


Reviewer:

Title: Field Office Supervisor

Date: 7/16/81

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

## U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION X

1200 SIXTH AVENUE  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98101



REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: M/S 443

8 3 5 2 2

Mr. Dick Todd  
Bureau of Land Management  
Route 3, Box 181  
Cottonwood, Idaho 83522

Re: Northern Idaho Grazing EIS

Dear Mr. Todd:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has completed its review of the subject EIS. We have the following comments.

1. In general, we support the goals of this planning effort to improve watershed and riparian area condition. We support the planned fencing and other measures proposed to achieve these goals.

2. We believe the additional benefits of riparian area protection on Little Canyon Creek under Alternative 2 may be justified. We encourage BLM to seriously consider selecting Alternative 2 as the best balance between grazing and riparian objectives.

3. The EIS should better explain the rationale behind the conclusions that watershed and riparian improvements will be "insignificant" under the Proposed Action and Alternative 2.

4. The EIS should explain why acres to be treated with herbicides remain constant under all alternatives. Could alternative acreages have been considered?

5. The EIS should include a statement that label requirements will be strictly adhered to in all herbicide applications.

6. The aquatic monitoring program should be described in greater detail. Specifically, what is meant by "periodic" sampling.

6.1

6.2

6.3

6.4



The Environmental Protection Agency has rated this draft statement LO-1 (LO - Lack of Objections; 1 - Adequate Information). This rating will be published in the Federal Register in accordance with our responsibilities to inform the public of our views on proposed Federal actions under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, as amended.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this environmental statement. If you have questions or would like to discuss these comments, please feel free to contact me or Craig Partridge of my staff at (206) 442-4011 or FTS 399-4011.

Sincerely yours,

*Elizabeth Corbyn*  
Elizabeth Corbyn, Chief  
Environmental Evaluation Branch

# RESPONSE TO LETTER 6

6.1 Actions designed to improve range condition and Ilkwaish watershed condition will effect 8808 acres of BLM land. This acreage on which improvement would occur represents a range of from less than one percent to approximately five percent of the total acreage within any drainage in the EIS area.

Livestock grazing occurring on public lands is not responsible for the present stream condition on many streams. See page 3-14, fifth paragraph; page 4-15, second paragraph; and Appendix 2-5 of the draft EIS.

It is estimated that approximately 14 percent (11.6 miles) of the stream miles are in poor condition because of livestock grazing on BLM lands. The potential for stream improvement from grazing management is greatest on these streams. However, off-site impacts would still continue on adjacent private lands, which are the major factors determining present condition on the majority of the streams. BLM lands often make up a small percentage of the total stream length. Therefore, the Bureau only has a limited chance to make watershed and riparian improvements.

6.2 Herbicide treatments to control noxious weeds are proposed on all identified infestations in the EIS area. The herbicide treatments are not related to the intensity of livestock grazing management.

6.3 In accordance with BLM Manual 9220, all herbicide label requirements will be strictly adhered to. See Text and Graphic Changes section, page 16.

6.4 Water quality and discharge would be monitored approximately every 15 days during spring runoff and every 45 days during the rest of the year.

Stream condition would be monitored by means of a permanent transect. Transects would be established on streams that presently have poor streambank stability which is being caused or aggravated by livestock grazing (see Appendix 2-5). The transects would be monitored every one to four years, depending upon the grazing treatment used. The data would be taken on a given transect immediately following removal of livestock from the area. Once monitoring has been initiated, the data would always be collected during the same time each year livestock grazing occurs. After stream condition has been stabilized, monitoring would then be conducted approximately once every four years.



*Society of American Foresters*  
*Wasatch Front Chapter*

July 24, 1981

Mr. Dick Todd  
Northern Idaho Grazing E.I.S. Team Leader  
Bureau of Land Management  
Route #3, Box 181  
Cottonwood, Idaho 83522

Dear Mr. Todd,

We appreciate the opportunity to review the Northern Idaho  
Grazing Management E.I.S.

The selected alternative is probably the best for the current  
conditions, but we are not convinced it addresses the future with any  
confidence. The general tone of the report leads to this conclusion.

For example, it seems there is a continuing reference in each  
chapter to the fact that the B. L. M. lands make up such a small  
portion of the available grazing that no great effort needs to be made  
for increased productivity or land use for other multiple purposes.  
These references are made either directly or indirectly. (Pages 1-1,  
1-2, 2-1, 3-17, and 4-1).

We think the analysis and proposed action should be more positive,  
addressing both the present and future, particularly with the need for  
Government lands to assume a larger role in providing the replaceable  
resource needs of the future.

Sincerely,

*Robert L. Safran*  
Robert L. Safran, Chairman  
Wasatch Front Chapter  
324 25th Street, Federal Building  
Ogden, Utah 84401



To advance the science, technology, education, and practice of professional forestry  
in America, and to use the knowledge and skills of the profession to benefit society.

## TEXT AND GRAPHICS CHANGES

### TEXT CHANGES

Page 2-6, Additional Management Measures - Paragraph 3, line 1, change "four allotments" to "five allotments".

Page 2-10, Land Treatment - Paragraph 4, add the following sentence: BLM manual 9220 will be adhered to in all herbicide applications.

Page 2-11, Timber Harvest - Paragraph 1, line 3, add the word "annually" between the words "logged" and "have".

Page 2-14, Table 2-11 - Add allotment 6293 Lyons Bar to Year 3 AMP preparation schedule.

Page 3-1, Soils Resource - Paragraph 2, Sentence 1, should be changed to read: Soil erosion from lack of vegetative cover and soil compaction are the effects on the soils resource most commonly caused by grazing activities.

Page 4-2, Last sentence, should be changed to read: 5. No impacts: Resource conditions, for example, good or poor, would remain static.

Page 4-6, Paragraph 1, last sentence, should be changed to read: Because of improved livestock distribution caused by these developments, about 244 additional AUMs would become available.

Page 4-15, Aquatic Wildlife - Paragraph 4, last line, delete the word "not".

Page A-3, Paragraph 1, Seasonal use periods - Change "6/16 - 6/15" to "6/16 - 9/15".

Page A-15, Appendix 2-3 - Table A, change the entries as noted for the following allotments:

Allotment Acres		Level of Livestock Use				Percent Change from Current Management	
Proposed Action 1/		(Alt. 2) Resource Protection	(Alt. 1) Current Management	(AUMs) Proposed Action	(Alt. 2) Resource Protection	(Alt. 1) Proposed Action	(Alt. 2) Resource Protection
6163	396	396		14	14	-36	-36
6177						-42	-42
6224	227 (478)						

Page A-41, Projected Forage Increases from Timber Harvest - Paragraph 1, line 1 change "Projected" to "Temporary". In the same paragraph insert the following sentence immediately before the last sentence in the paragraph: These acres would be available for livestock use from approximately 5 through 20 years following timber harvest (see page 2-11 draft EIS).

### GRAPHIC CHANGES

Vegetation Packet Map - South 1/2, the area east of Headquarters which is noted as grassland should be changed to timber.



**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**  
**Library**  
**Denver Service Center**

Form 1279-3  
 (June 1984)

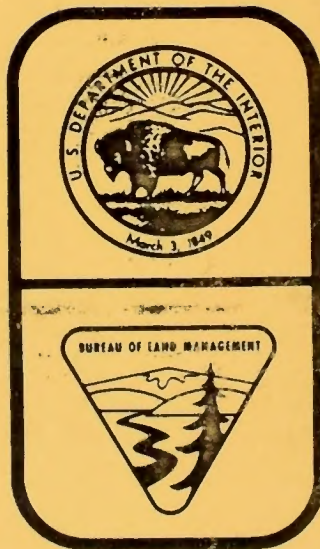
BORROWER

SF 85,335 .12 N67 198  
 Northern Idaho grazing  
 management final

DATE LOANED	BORROWER

USDI - BLM





---

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Bureau of Land Management

---